



## Madhesh Institute of Health Sciences (MIHS): 1st Anniversary

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Dear Editor-in-chief,

Being a daughter of Madhesh Pradesh, I am always concerned towards the contemporary affairs of our community, society and country. Nepal's southern plain Terai, has a rich history and culture in South Asia, where Hinduism and Buddhism flourished before the 4<sup>th</sup> BCE [1]. The Madhesh movement, as a social movement, has played an important role in Nepal's state re-organization, but institutionalizing changes and rights remains a challenge [2]. There has been significant progress in healthcare facilities since the country adopted a federal system of governance. The province-specific new federal setup has been shown to have favorable benefits on native resource utilization. Province 2, which was recently renamed Madhesh Pradesh, has been lagging behind in terms of health care and technical education. With this concern, MIHS was founded in 2021 by the provincial government as a government medical educational institution in Janakpurdham, Dhanusha, Nepal, with the goal of reducing suffering, disability, and poverty via improved specialized health care, research, and education [3]. On 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022, MIHS celebrated its first anniversary "Annual Day" as a celebration of noteworthy progress and admirable efforts in a year. It is my pleasure to congratulate all the entire MIHS family for celebration of 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary with great fanfare. On this occasion, Chief Minister Mohammad Lalbabu Raut addressed that establishment of MIHS is the first step toward making it a technical education hub and developing it as a symbol of pride not only for the Province, but also for the country. Dr. Ram Kewal Sah, Vice-Chancellor of MIHS, praised the Madhesh Pradesh government for its unwavering support since its establishment and wished for continuous help in the future. The event was covered by the media,

and a number of prominent dignitaries, ministers, medical professionals, students, and other guests took part and made it glorious.

According to a report of the University Grants Commission (UGC), Nepal, there are 11 universities and six autonomous medical academies that offer higher education in Nepal [4]. Among them, MIHS is one of the youngest medical academy run by the Provincial government. Celebrating 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary is a significant and special milestone for MIHS with ongoing developmental progress, ups and downs faced by MIHS in the dire situation of Corona pandemic. MIHS started running four undergraduate academic programs Post Basic Nursing (PBN), Bachelor of nursing, Bachelor of public health (BPH) and Bachelor of medical laboratory technology (BMLT) with few numbers of students. On one side, the new cases of the virus around the globe increased and on the other side, the commencement of lockdown affected of academics at MIHS too. MIHS also victimized from it. Cease of the physical presence led to less involvement towards development. But, at the meantime, the operation of Special COVID Hospital and special services at MIHS was a welcome development. The establishment of oxygen plant under the MIHS is also heartily welcomed. Currently, all the programs are running smoothly with an administrative block in well furnished classrooms. The confidence of dignitaries, teaching faculties, administrative staffs are praiseworthy. The teaching faculties are academically sound, dynamic and intellect professionals. For the betterment of academic, research and service MIHS has started collaborations and educational exchange programs with BPKIHS and PAHS, Nepal and internationally with Vilnius University, Lithuania

[3]. Celebration of 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary is remarkable that MIHS is working in progress. However, there are still obstacles to overcome. Due to insufficient facilities and a lack of number teaching faculties, MBBS and PG programs are yet to begin. Vice-Chancellor's continuous efforts in this direction are highly commendable. But, the absence of the Rector and the Registrar during this ceremony is suggestive of some issues and controversies inside there. The academic and administrative activities at MIHS had impacted both directly and indirectly by the empty posts of these authorities. It is really concerning that neither the government nor the vice chancellor found to be concerned on this matter. The immediate effects include that academic programs are still being offered, despite the fact that no deans, campus administrators, or exam controllers, etc., have been employed. However, the land acquisition procedure and Manipal's inclusion is a positive indication towards the development of MIHS. The MIHS administrative office is located in the Provincial Hospital [5], but coordination, involvement, and collaboration have been a source of contention since the outset. No doubt, MIHS' health human resources must be technically competent and socially accountable, but nepotism

claims are bolstered by the selections of manpower, faculties, and staffs in various areas without any vacancies. The employees at MIHS experienced no regular salaries payments with several confusions regarding the job security.


In Madhesh Province, Janakpurdham is a significant place of pilgrimage for Hindus and is renowned for Mithila civilization with its rich literary, linguistic, artistic heritage, diverse culture, religions and a hive of opportunities. MIHS would be a cornerstone for the growth of technical education and medical hub in health service at Janakpurdham in Madhesh Pradesh. Since its establishment, MIHS become highly recognized for its innovative approaches in medical and health sector to play a significant role in the advancement of health service at Madhesh Pradesh with skilled, passionate professionals, dedicated faculties, staff and students. For the benefit of our communities and upcoming medical and health care professionals, MIHS has a promising future. MIHS would be a source of pride for the entire nation, not just the Madhesh Province.

Once again, congratulations on 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

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### Article History:

Received: 23 April, 2022  
Revised: 3 May, 2022  
Accepted: 15 May, 2022

**Citation:** Yadav K. Madhesh Institute of Health Sciences (MIHS): 1st Anniversary. *MedS. J. Med. Sci.* 2022;2(3):101-102.

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